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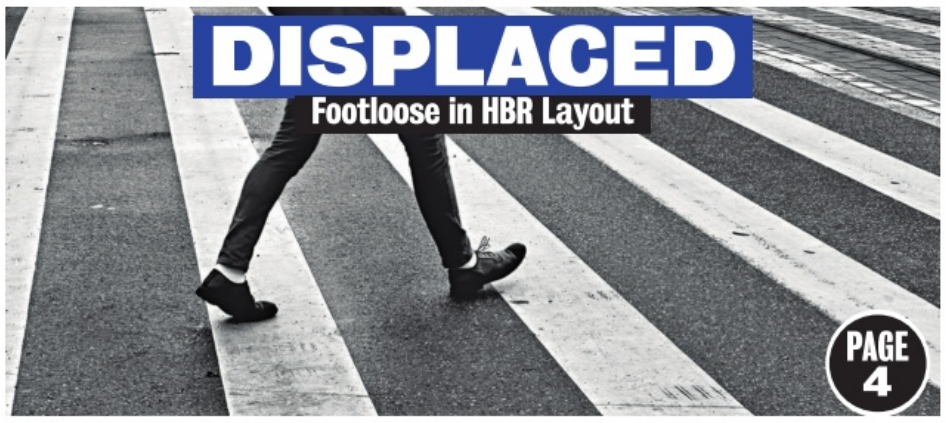
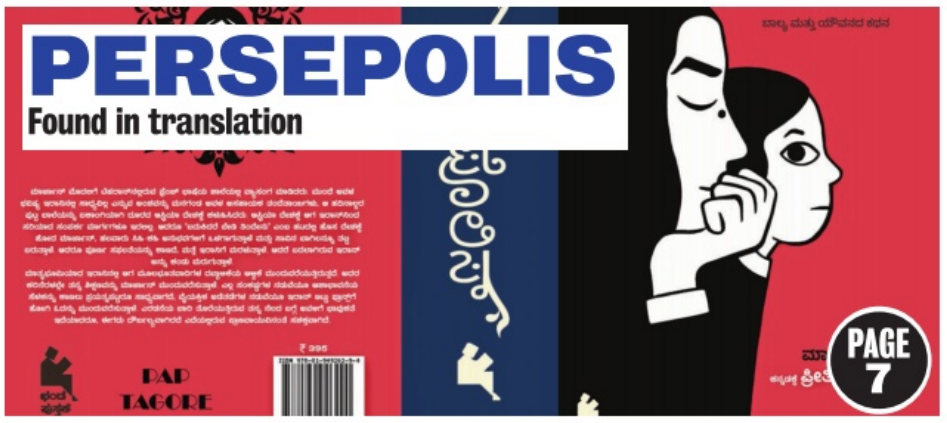
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 78% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 61,337 | Nifty 18,269 | Gold 54,325 | Silver 67,655 | Dollar 82.73 | Euro 87.65 | GBP 100.47





WEIRD INFRA: Footpath with hardly any space to walk has bizarrely placed bollards to further block pedestrian's progress

THERE WILL BE BOLLARDS

'Unscientific' structures at sidewalk along 1.5 km stretch of Nandi Durga Road

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One of the busiest stretches in Bengaluru, Nandi Durga Road, that leads to the airport, is left crying for attention.

Sidewalks rendered useless due to cracked slabs, blocked by garbage, encroached by street vendors and occupied by vehicles parked illegally are a common sight in the city.

However, the pedestrians of Nandi Durga Road are faced with a unique challenge when it comes to using the footpath.

The walkers on the stretch are left with no other option but to fight for space with the heavy vehicular traffic, thanks to unscientifically placed bollards at multiple spots along the 1.5 km stretch.

"The bollards have been placed at multiple points on the footpaths; these are totally unnecessary. The structures are installed on both sides of the footpath; they are too big for the narrow space. Nandi Durga Road is a busy stretch with buses plying frequently. As a pedestrian, even if you approach and aim for the pavement, you will end up walking on the road alongside vehicular

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> "Sidewalk is almost 10 inches high from road level. In some places, it's raised so high... that steps are provided..."
> — Daniel, resident

Home Truth

State govt yet to allot official residence for Upalokayukta 9 months after appointment

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It is almost nine months since Karnataka Upalokayukta Justice KN Phaneendra assumed office. But the state government is yet to allot an official residence for the Upalokayukta.

The chief ministers, irrespective of political affiliations, have been making tall claims of their commitment and determination to strengthen the Karnataka Lokayukta by providing the required resources and facilities.

The Upalokayukta post was vacant for more than two years and finally the Governor issued an order appointing Justice KN Phaneendra as Upalokayukta back in March. The Upalokayukta has been commuting to Karnataka Lokayukta office at a multi-storeyed building on Dr BR Ambedkar Veedhi from Magadi Road.

"I want the state government to allot residential quarters on Sankey Road. I think many bungalows owned by the state government are vacant. Justice Phaneendra is coming to office on time but it will be more convenient if the state government allots residential quarters on Sankey Road or Palace Road," said a Lokayukta official on the condition of anonymity.

The other issue is the delay in filling the Upalokayukta post that has been vacant since Justice BS Patil, the then Upalokayukta, was elevated to Lokayukta in last June. The Karnataka Lokayukta has a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Hunt for Karnataka's talent

VK Navatare, a one-of-a-kind beauty pageant and talent hunt for college students is back, and if you're one of those who wants to shine on the ramp, this is your moment! In fact, VK Navatare is the one and only beauty pageant and talent hunt conducted for college students by VK (Bangalore Mirror's sister concern and number one newspaper in Karnataka). The fifth edition of VK Navatare has begun and if you are yet to enrol, here's your chance right now. VK Navatare is an excellent platform for all the college girls aiming for a career in TV, films and entertainment in general. The participants and winners of the previous editions have made it big in their respective. VK Navatare as it is one of the most trustworthy beauty pageants and talent hunt and one of its kind conducted by a newspaper in Karnataka. Currently, auditions are being held at Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Davanagere and Kalaburagi. The entry is completely free. After auditions at regional levels, the finale will be held at Bengaluru. So, don't miss this golden opportunity and enrol now.

"VK Navatare is a prestigious event and I waited for two years to prepare and participate. It has given me a great platform. It has boosted my morale and confidence and opened up a number of career opportunities
– Manushree, VK Navatare 2021 winner

The participants of VK Navatare-5 may bag a chance to act in Star Suvarna Channel
*(Conditions Apply)

HOW TO ENROLL

Students studying in Karnataka's colleges in the age group of 18 to 23 are eligible. The interested students can send their personal biodata along with photos (both closeup and a full-size photo) along with a self-introductory video. The profiles should include necessary details: name, address, college name, class details, and parents' names along with a copy of the college identity card. The details can be sent on **WhatsApp 8880852240**. The last date for entry is **December 20, 2022.**

Trekking to Ettina Bhuja? Route got tougher now

Forest Dept officials have banned trail starting from Shishila; hikers have to take Mudigere route which is far more treacherous and challenging

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Bengaluru trekkers who wanted to hike up to the Ettina Bhuja peak from Shishila are in for some disappointing news.

The Forest Department has blocked a part of the entrance from Shishila to the peak, one of the popular trekking destinations. The summit point is at an altitude of 4,265 feet and is part of Charmadi ghat ranges.

Till now, Ettina Bhuja (ox's shoulder) could be reached from Shishila or Mudigere. The most preferred route for Bengalureans was from Shishila.

However, now that the Forest Department has banned the entry from Shishila, trekkers have to go from Mudigere -- a challenging route.

Deputy Conservator of Forests, YK Dinesh Kumar, said, "We have officially banned the entry to Ettina Bhuja from the Shishila side. If we find anyone illegally trying to take that route, we will initiate strict action."

From Mudigere, Ettina Bhuja is at a distance of 25 kilometre. The last four kilometre is part of the trekking route and out of this, the last two km are very challenging and treacherous. It would take a couple of hours to reach this peak from this end. Many trekkers complain of leeches and snakes around.

They say that the Forest Department should provide dustbins so that the place is not littered and take strict action against the litterbugs. The trekkers have also urged the authorities to provide toilet facilities on the road before the trail starts.

From Shishila, Ettina Bhuja is at a distance of seven kilometre. Once, trekkers were caught in a forest fire as well. The department officials banned the trek as there were complaints of a few people hunting wild animals as well. During the route, people have to cross Kapila river which was often littered and this was also one of the reasons for the ban on trekking. The Shishila residents have been demanding the Forest Department to put an end to the trekking.

The green activists have welcomed the move. "The Western Ghats are part of a sensitive eco-zone and are definitely not for trekking. In the past, we have had incidents where people have either lost their way or lost their lives while trekking in the thick forests. As wild animals roam freely, people try to intrude into their space and create problems. The biggest problem is bringing plastic and littering the whole place.

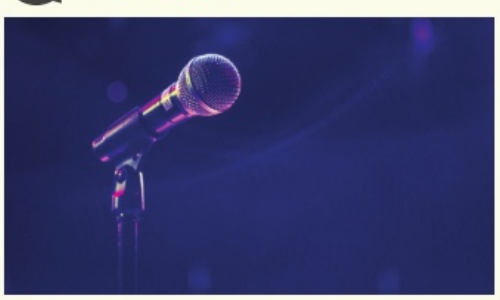
"We want to ensure that the western ghats are kept intact with minimal or no human interaction at all. We welcome the move to ban trekking from Shishila. In fact, we vouch to ban the trek from the other side too," said Srinath R, a green activist.

Part of the Charmadi Hills, Ettina Bhuja is a very popular trekking point in Karnataka

"If we find anyone illegally trying to take that route, we will initiate strict action – YK Dinesh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests

1 THING TO DO

01 Green lit!



The Green Literature Festival [GLF] is celebrating its first offline annual event at the Bangalore International Centre. As India's only festival dedicated exclusively to all forms of literature on the environment, this promises to be a fiesta for eco-enthusiasts, nature lovers and readers of all ages and tastes.

Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: December 18, 10 am – 6 pm
Register: https://greenlitfest.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fc7f8edd55c3b6ac34dd3b610&id=3cd5ddfcd3

Pug parents, please be gentle!

Eye displacement condition called ocular proptosis is common among them

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They are one of the cutest dog breeds and a great pet friend to have. But did you know that pugs require a lot of gentleness as they can often have an eye displacement condition called ocular proptosis?

In a recent case, a pet parent accidentally stepped onto the pug's head and the dog's eye protruded outside. Known as proptosis, it is the displacement of the eyeball beyond the eyelid, where the eyeball comes out of the eye socket.

The dog was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment. "When the dog was brought to us, its left eye was protruding outside. We checked the pug and saw that the condition was mild to moderate and carried out a surgery to reposition the eye into the orbit. In small breeds like Shih Tzu, Lasa Apso, Pekingese and pugs, the problem is that they have shallow orbits. The pugs have shallow eye sockets and bulging eyes, which can result in predisposed proptosis. In this incident, as the pug was brought early to us, we could treat it easily," said Dr Krishnaswamy, RMV super Speciality Veterinary Hospital.

Dr Krishnaswamy further added that as the injury in the pug was not that severe, they carried out an emergency surgery, where the dog was given anesthesia and the eye ball was pushed back into place. The eye was sutured as the eye ball should stay intact for seven days.

He added that they gave painkillers and left a little space for eye drops to be poured into the eye. He also revealed that they have seen about 10-15 cases like this in the past.

As pugs have loose skin on the neck, many pet parents even try to pull their skin and left them up or to even cuddle them. But this could be dangerous for the pugs as the eye balls can pop out of their socket.

He added that if such a case occurs, then the pet parents should be calm and take the dog to the veterinary clinic immediately.

"Even though such incidents occur, that does not mean that the pugs should not be allowed to play. They just have to be taken extra care and the pet parents should be gentle with them," added Dr Krishnaswamy.

Thieves strike PWD building, 3 files, computers go missing

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As if red tape were not enough, even thieves are not sparing smooth functioning of the Public Works Department (PWD). According to the police, three important files and three computers were stolen from the assistant executive office in a break-in.

"When there was no one in the office during vacation, thieves entered the office and stole the files and the system," said the police. Recently a new computer was installed in the PWD office. The Assistant Executive Officer Ananth has filed a complaint at Vidhana Soudha Police Station.

Ordered food? Get narcotics instead

A man who was selling drugs in the guise of a delivery personnel of a popular food app was arrested on Friday.

The man was found to be in possession of three kg of marijuana, 12 lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) strips weighing 0.14 grams, a mobile phone, a two-wheeler, and other goods.

Drugs, phones and uniforms of food delivery app company seized from man

The Bengaluru police's Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested the man who used to distribute drugs dressed in the uniforms generally worn by delivery persons, said the police.

According to the narcotics squad, a team of officers and members of the CCB Narcotics Squad launched an operation in the Whitefield Police Station area and arrested the suspect carrying illegal substances.

After preliminary investigation the police have found that there are two people involved in the distribution. One is arrested and the other one is absconding. Both of the accused are from Bihar.

One accused used to give directions and location of the customers to the other accused, who used to sell drugs. A case under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 has been registered against them by the CCB police.

Man dies after falling into well

A young man, Shiva, 26, slipped and fell into a well while installing a grill in it in DJ Halli.

The deceased was not wearing any safety gears and was sitting on an old iron grill which was severely damaged. A case has been registered in this regard under the jurisdiction of DJ Halli Police Station.

CCB arrests 8 in prostitution racket

CRIME FILES

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested 8 people who were engaged in prostitution near Kengeri Dental College.

Most of them are illegal Bangladeshi migrants, said the police.

The CCB police had received information about the accused that had come illegally from Bangladesh, had taken a house on rent near Kengeri Dental College and were engaged in prostitution.

Based on this information, CCB police raided the house at 4am on Saturday and arrested those who were engaged in prostitution.

"The accused caught by the police were engaging in prostitution for just Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000. At the time of the raid, police seized four mobile phones, Bangladeshi currency notes and Indian cash," said the police

A case has been registered in Kengeri police station regarding the incident and the police are investigating the background of the eight accused.

M'luru blast accused shifted to city hospital

Mangaluru cooker bomb blast accused Shariq was shifted to Bengaluru's Victoria Hospital at 4 am on Saturday for further treatment. The bomber Shariq has fully recovered and a team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) officers has brought him to the city for further examination.

He was being treated for burns in Mangaluru and was discharged on Friday night. Shariq's interrogation will continue at the NIA office in Bengaluru.

Traffic discipline: Contactless does it!

Till November 2022, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have booked an astonishing 88.21 lakh cases – about 91.6% of the total cases- through contactless enforcement.

The official data revealed that traffic violation cases booked in the city through contactless enforcement have risen by over 123% in the last four years.

In 2019, the total number of cases booked through contactless enforcement was 39.5 lakh, which generated 2.06 crore in fines. This year, the total fine amount generated is to the tune of about 15.5 crores, registering an increase of 647%.

While the BTP booked a total of 96,27,713 cases under various traffic offenses, around 88.2 lakh cases were contactless.

High-resolution cameras to catch speeding vehicles, interceptors to record violations, traffic officials and signals laced with high-resolution cameras mobile phones and the recently introduced Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) are some of the tech-based equipment that BTP is using to spot violations and issue contactless challan to the violators.

"ITMS consists of 250 automatic number plate recognition cameras and 80 red light violation detection cameras installed at 50 junctions to detect traffic violation in a contactless manner and short message service (SMS) auto generated challan to the violator," said a senior traffic police official.

According to the BTP officials, the introduction of multiple technology-based measures to act against those violating traffic rules along with the recent amendments in the Central Motor Vehicle Act are the main reasons leading to the higher fine amount collected this year. **–BMB**

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No place for pedestrians

Footpath encroachment in HBR Layout forcing citizens to walk on busy main road

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Accessibility to footpaths has reportedly been blocked by a builder at HBR Layout for three years now. In spite of multiple complaints made by residents at the ward committee meeting, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials are taking no action.

Residents said that one of the buildings on the opposite BDA complex next to the BESCOM office has been under construction for three years. A footpath that runs along the building has been encroached upon by the building owners who have put up sheets to cover the construction site. This is blocking the footpath to pedestrians, forcing them to use the busy road.

This particular junction at HBR Layout is considered to be one of the busiest. It is used by hundreds of commuters. One side of the road leads to Tannery Road, and if the commuters take a left at the BDA complex, they can reach Hennur.

Adding to the problems, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) dug up huge pits across major roads alongside the footpaths to lay lines for metro work a few months ago. Vikram Mailar, a resident of the area, said, " Access to reasonable footpaths is a fundamental right. However, the statutory laws relating to footpaths and public streets are rarely implemented. We have made multiple complaints at the ward committee meetings to ask the builder to leave the footpath to the pedestrians, but no action has been taken so far.

Now, with KPTCL having dug up the road as well, the pedestrians have to walk on the main road where vehicles are moving continuously. It is highly dangerous for us." Mailar further said that according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, as many as 1,880 pedestrians lost their lives in road accidents across Karnataka over the last year, of which Bengaluru accounted for 272 accidents.

The number of pedestrian deaths has been increasing every year, and the main reason is encroachment of footpaths, he said.

"The state government should bring stringent laws against offenders and encourage pedestrianisation of roads to provide safe and sustainable urban living," added Mailar.

Speaking about the encroachment, Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and General Secretary of BNP, said, "We need to implement stricter laws to avoid such illegal encroachments. Both encroachers and the concerned officials are aware of the laws against encroachment, but despite this awareness, encroachers do not fear the BBMP or the traffic police because of a bribery system that has become institutionalised over the years. Additionally, supervising encroachments and holding the offenders responsible is a continuous process".

This footpath in HBR Layout has been encroached upon by building owners who have put up sheets to cover the construction site; additonally, the KPTCL has dug up large pits next to the footpath

> **"Access to reasonable footpaths is a fundamental right, but the statutory laws relating to them are rarely implemented**
>
> – Vikram Mailar, resident

Dilly-dally on Rogers Road affects locals

Residents are suffering due to BWSSB digging up roads two years back, not restoring it

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Residents of Rogers Road in Richards Town, Sagayapuram ward have been suffering for more than two years due to the poor condition of the road in the area. They are worried about the safety of their children due to the state of the stretch that was dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and left the same since.

Another problem they face is that most of the auto rickshaw drivers refuse to commute on the road whenever it rains, making it difficult for them to hail a ride during emergencies.

"We have been appealing to the authorities concerned to restore the road, but it has been in vain. All the other roads that were dug up by the BWSSB for replacing the underground drainage pipes were already restored, but for this road, it is pending even after two years," said Shaheena Liaquat, a resident of the area. She also told Bangalore Mirror that her granddaughter nearly had a bad fall in the area.

Expressing concern over the deplorable condition of the road, Firdaus, another resident, said, "I want the BBMP or the BWSSB authorities to fix this problem as early as possible to avoid inconvenience for the people living on this road."

Habiba Suban, a social activist, told BM that residents have been facing a lot of problems due to the delay in restoring the road. "It is very tough to commute on this road on a two-wheeler. I want the BWSSB authorities to restore the road without any more delay. I have already informed the nodal officer of Sagayapuram ward about the problem," said Suban.

Meanwhile, BWSSB assistant engineer Santosh said that he would take measures to restore the road shortly.

Sagayapuram ward nodal officer Mallappa also told BM that he would direct the authorities concerned to fix the road.

Residents in the area report auto rickshaw drivers not wanting to commute here when it rains, making it tough during an emergency

> **"It is very tough to commute on this road on a two-wheeler. I want the BWSSB authorities to restore the road without any more delay**
>
> – Habiba Suban, activist

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Shoddy road work

Brunton Road Cross

An accident is waiting to happen in Brunton Road Cross because of the shoddy road work done here.

Bad road

Kasavanahalli Road

The stretch on Kasavanahalli Road between Choodasandra Circle and Amruta Engineering college junction is in a bad state.

Potholes

Lingarajapuram

There are potholes opposite St Charles High School in Lingarajapuram for months.

Air that we just can't breathe in

Data by Karnataka Pollution Control Board says that particulate matter levels breached permissible limits most days in November

PIC FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

Bengaluru's AQI has been degrading constantly this month with the onset of winter

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The Particulate Matter (PM) levels in Bengaluru breached the 24-hour safe limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on most days in November 2022.

As per CPCB standards, the daily safe limits for PM 2.5 and PM 10 are 60 ug/m3 and 100 ug/m3 respectively. However, the air pollution readings by air quality monitoring stations in the city show that several places experienced continuous streaks of highly polluted days last month.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has installed 7 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) covering residential, commercial, mixed, and silence zones. The stations are installed at City Railway Station, Saneguruvanahalli, Hebbal, Jayanagar, Mysore Road, NIMHANS and HSR Layout.

As per the data by KSPCB, the permissible PM 10 levels were breached on 18 out of 30 days at Mysuru Road, 16 out of 30 days at HSR Layout, 11 out of 30 days in Jayanagar, 5 out of 30 days at NIMHANS, 4 out of 30 days at Hebbal and 2 out of 30 days at the City railway station. The highest value recorded was 190.2 ug/m3 at HSR Layout.

When it comes to PM 2.5, the more lethal particulate matter, the safety levels were breached on 20 out of 30 days at Mysuru Road, 7 out of 30 days at Jayanagar, 7 out of 30 days at HSR Layout, 6 out of 30 days at NIMHANS and 3 out of 30 days at Hebbal station. The highest value recorded was 121.5 ug/m3 by the monitoring station at KAVIKA, Mysuru Road.

According to health experts, particulate matter (PM 2.5, PM 10) is considered dangerous to human health because they bypass many of our body's defences.

"Long-term exposure has been linked to premature death, particularly in people who have chronic heart or lung diseases, and reduced lung function growth in children," said a health expert from a city-based private hospital.

According to the experts, ubiquitous construction activities, BMTC's rampant use of diesel buses and mismanaged vehicular traffic are the reasons behind higher levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10 in the city.

This is despite the fact that Bengaluru experienced a high number of rainy days in November.

"These higher levels only point to unabated construction activities going on," said Dr Pratima Singh, research scientist, Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

Bangalore Mirror

Air quality in Bengaluru deteriorates from 'satisfactory' at beginning of the month to 'moderate' as winter sets in

CAUGHT IN THE AIR

La Nina event is bound to push AQI values higher

A just transition

Our Dec 11 story on degrading air quality

Experts say unabated construction and vehicular pollution are to blame

One of the predominant problems, according to the experts, is the lack of enforcement of various regulations by the country's pollution watchdog.

"The CPCB has also floated a protocol stating that heavy commercial vehicles plying in the city carrying construction material should be properly covered. Moreover, BMTC's fleet complying with BS-III and BS-IV standards is a huge challenge to Bengaluru's pollution level," said Dr Singh.

Are monitors showing the real picture?

Although PM levels breached the permissible limits, The 7 CAAQMs installed in Bengaluru reveal that the overall air quality was in the 'good', 'satisfactory' and 'moderate' categories on almost all days in November.

Experts say this is because most of the monitoring stations in the city are installed in relatively cleaner surroundings, away from emission-emitting vehicles or industries.

"You can monitor the pollutant level in Peenya for instance, but if it is being measured a few kilometres away from the industrial area, it is not the correct way to know the index for a city's air quality as per international guidelines," said Dr Gurfan Baig, professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), IISc campus.

Thriller night! Bengaluru gears up for the WC final

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It's D Day for football fans everywhere. With just a few hours to go before the finals, restaurants, pubs, and even colleges in the city are gearing up to provide the best match-viewing experience to die-hard fans.

Madhusudhana Rao, said, "At St Claret PU college, we are going to livestream the FIFA finals. The match will be streaming on a 14x30 feet LED screen for the students. We have invited students from different colleges. The event will begin at 5 pm. Apart from the match, there are a lot of activities planned for the students. There will also be present a food court for the students. For participating, the students will have to show their student ID cards and pay an entry fee of Rs 100. We are doing this to promote the spirit of sports. I believe this is an event which is first of its kind."

Even the pubs are going all out. Shreya, part of the networking team at Byg Brewsky, said they would also be livestreaming the match on a big screen. For patrons, there will be snacks and drinks that will be on the house. The people interested in coming will have to register themselves as well as their plus one who will be accompanying them.

> **"I feel watching the match with everyone and sharing the excitement is much better than watching at home**
>
> –Shekhar Sharma, a resident of Rajajinagar

Even the small cafes in the city are trying their best to match up to the excitement among football fans. Kshitij S, a representative from Café Casavista, said that despite a lack of space, they managed to clear some space and put up a screen.

For football fans, it will be a lifelong memory. Shekhar Sharma, a resident of Rajajinagar, said, "I found out the places that would be streaming the match on a big screen and booked tickets for me and my friends. I feel the experience of watching the match with everyone and sharing the excitement is much better than watching the match alone at home."

Inauguration gone wrong

Roller paver machine disrupts inspection of newly white topped 100 feet road

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Many motorists, especially traffic police, were elated to see arrangements being made to inaugurate half of the newly white topped 100 feet road on Saturday morning.

However, the Palike's carelessness led to a different kind of delay this time. An MLA, police, and activists were kept waiting to inspect the newly white topped road in Indiranagar (CV Raman Nagar Assembly constituency).

Commuters thought that the opening of the remaining half stretch of the stretch on 100 feet road between 12th Main and Domlur flyover would finally ensure hassle free commuting. All this time, motorists had to use the crossroads to reach Domlur flyover from 12th Main for proceeding towards Koramangala and other areas.

White topping work had been delayed and MLA S Raghu directed the BBMP engineer to expedite the completion of the work and open the road to the public.

While the BBMP engineer made arrangements to inaugurate the road for the public accordingly, he expected the MLA and others to go back home after cutting the ribbon. What he did not expect was the MLA wanting to actually inspect the newly white topped road.

The executive engineer had also arrived at the spot at 11 am instead of coming in the morning to ensure all arrangements were in place. He had forgotten about the stationary roller paver machine lying in the middle of the road.

> **"I have been telling the BBMP engineer to open the road to the public for the last three days. I am happy to inaugurate the road**
> — Raghu, MLA

He was seen contacting the contractor over the phone just a few minutes before the MLA arrived at the spot.

The MLA wanted to proceed towards Domlur flyover after cutting the ribbon. However, his convoy had to stop after moving hardly 100 m on the newly constructed road. This is because no one, including the BBMP engineer and the contractor, took measures to remove the roller paver machine from the road. There was no space for vehicles to proceed towards the flyover as the roller paver machine occupied most of the space on the road. The MLA's convoy had to wait for more than half an hour on the road as a result.

Finally, the police brought a crane to move the roller paver machine away from the road to allow the convoy to proceed towards Domlur flyover for inspection.

"I have been telling the BBMP engineer to open the road to the public for the last three days. I am happy to inaugurate the road for the public. All these days, motorists used to struggle to commute on the cross roads. With the opening of this stretch to the public, I hope there will be no traffic jams," said Raghu.

Meanwhile, the BBMP engineer said that pending work (development of footpaths and shoulder drains) on the stretch will be completed in 15 to 20 days.

Odd bollards of Nandi Durga Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

traffic," said Ahuja, a resident of the area.

Residents of the area said the bollards were placed almost a year ago when the stretch was repaired by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The metal poles installed very close to each other and concreted with the pavement are too narrow for a pedestrian to squeeze through, they complained.

"These structures were placed immediately after the stretch was repaired a year ago. The metal blockers are tall and shaped differently. Moreover, at the top, the parts are pointed and might injure somebody trying to make their way to the footpath. They are separated by only a few inches," said another resident of the area.

Pedestrians said not only are the pavements inaccessible, they are narrow as well. They also complained that even after years of neglect, the BBMP has not been able to finish the work and provide a motorable road to tax-paying citizens.

According to some active residents of the area, while the issue has been brought to the notice of BBMP officials along with the contractor and local MLA on multiple occasions, no action has been taken so far.

"Recently, we spoke to the BBMP contractor while the workers had installed the bollards. We also reached out to the MLA, citing that the structures are unsafe for pedestrians. We have also spoken to the BBMP engineer

on several occasions. However, the bollards are still there causing a lot of inconvenience to the walkers. The footpath overall is in bad condition," said Susan P, a resident of the area.

When BM reached out to the BBMP officials concerned, they said the bollards were placed to block the entry of two-wheelers.

"We have installed the bollards to ensure that bikers do not use the footpath. Footpaths are made for the safety of pedestrians and should be used only by them. However, we will inspect the footpaths along Nandi Durga Road and if the bollards are placed too close, we will rectify it as soon as possible," said a BBMP official.

However, residents disagreed. "The sidewalks along the stretch are almost ten inches high from the road level. In some places, it has been raised so high that the BBMP had to provide steps to climb onto the footpath. There is no chance of a motorbike using these pavements," said Daniel, another resident of the area.

Commuters want cure to Muthanallur congestion

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Commuters using the road on Muthanallur Cross are being highly troubled due to congestion in the stretch, especially during school hours. They said that the poor condition of the road at the intersections is one of the main reasons behind the congestion. Yohith K, a commuter, said, "In the morning hours, the area is completely filled with vehicles. Even school buses get stuck, causing problems for the students. Crossing a distance of just one kilometre takes us almost an hour."

Amit Jain, another commuter, said, "The worst traffic takes place in the morning and afternoon hours, which are the school hours. The situation becomes extremely messy, and the terrible condition of the road does not help either. On this road, an accident can happen at any point if it is not fixed soon enough. It requires immediate attention and action."

Some of the commuters have also said that they have seen ambulances getting stuck on the road with no way to go. Rajanish Kumar, one of them, said, "I have often seen ambulances getting stuck . Moreover, the road is also filled with potholes, which makes it difficult to commute." People also complain about potholes in the area.

Prasanna M, another commuter, said that he has seen a lot of two-wheeler drivers lose their balance.

A BBMP official said that they would send someone to look into the problems and try to start work soon.

1 of 2 Upalokayukta posts still vacant

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provision for two Upalokayuktas. With one of the Upalokayukta posts still vacant, the workload on functioning Upalokayukta is expected to increase thus resulting in the number of pending cases or the delay in redressing public grievances.

"Apart from attending complaints from the public on a daily basis, the Upalokayukta has been visiting district headquarters once in a month. It will be better if the state government takes measures to fill the existing vacancy for the Upalokayukta post. The filling of the vacancy will facilitate speedy disposal of pending cases," said an employee at the Lokayukta office.

Social activist Sai Datta demanded the state government to appoint a retired High Court Judge as Upalokayukta and provide official residence to the existing Upalokayukta Justice KN Phaneendra to ensure smooth functioning of Lokayukta office. He said it is the responsibility of the state government to provide official residence for Upalokayukta on time.

"The lack of facilities for Upalokayukta may compel retired High Court Judges not to evince interest to become Upalokayukta. The state government has to respect the post of Upalokayukta and provide all amenities. It is not a difficult task to find an official residence for Upalokayukta as many government bungalows are vacant," said Datta.

Karnataka Rashtra Samithi president Ravikrishna Reddy criticised the state government for not taking measures to end corruption among government employees by strengthening Karnataka Lokayukta. He said there is a lot of difference between the state government's announcements and what it does in practice.

"The state government has no intention to end corruption by strengthening Karnataka Lokayukta. The government provides bungalows to ministers immediately even though each of them owns two to three bungalows in Bengaluru. Though Justice KN Phaneendra has his own residence, it is the responsibility of the government to provide amenities to him as per the Karnataka Lokayukta Act," said Reddy.

THE SUNDAY READ

INTERVIEW

Found in translation

BM speaks to Preethi Nagaraj, who undertook the challenging task of bringing Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel Persepolis to us in Kannada

| Melvin Mathew c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Someone reading the Iranian novel in Thirthahalli should be exposed to the ethos, different feel, emotions, and language of the novel. Every reading should be able to give the reader a new world

PREETHI NAGARAJ, JOURNALIST

For the first time, you can read Iranian-French writer Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel Persepolis in Kannada. This is also perhaps the first graphic novel translated from a foreign language into Kannada. The graphic novel was initially written in French and later translated into English, and further translated into Kannada from English. The book has been published under the publishing house Chanda Pustaka.

Persepolis is an autobiographical series by Marjane Satrapi that depicts her childhood in Iran and Austria during the Islamic Revolution.

The graphic was translated by veteran bi-lingual journalist Preethi Nagaraj and she hopes that the unique dystopian world of Persepolis and the genre of graphic novels can be opened to the Kannada audience through her work.

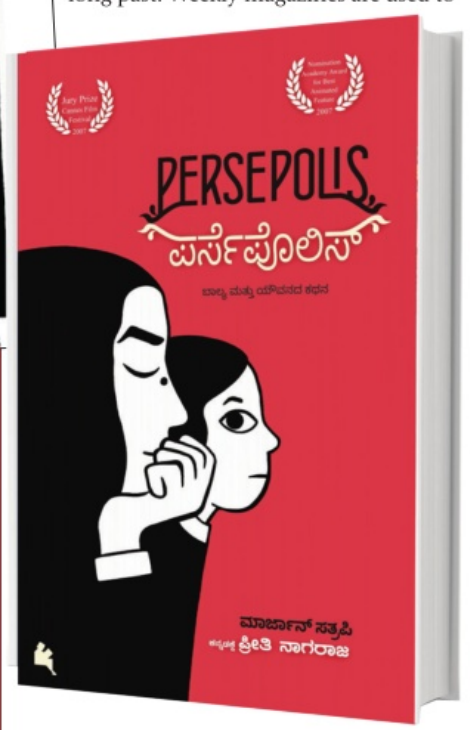
BM spoke to the translator of the book Preethi Nagaraj in a free-wheeling chat about her journey of discovering the book and translating it into Kannada.

How was your experience translating Persepolis?

When I started the project, I didn't even know about Persepolis. Probably the younger generation is more aware of the book. The book explores the concept of shared struggles across the globe and it's something I found very interesting. I usually like women who speak on political aspects. The book was a suggestion by publisher and friend Vasudhendra. It almost took me two months to complete the project mainly due to space limitations. I had to find the most appropriate contextual translation at the same time, fit into that tiny box. It was also a new format for me to work on and I loved it. Kudos to Sowmya Kalyankar the designer who also did a good job of fitting the text.

The biggest challenge you encountered while translating the work?

While translating, there is always a dilemma over which is more important- the text or the graphic. As a writer, you tend to lean towards the text but you need to adhere to the space available. You need to write within that box. However, as a bi-lingual writer, it was a joy to go through the worlds of both languages. I hope this lends towards a new reading genre in Kannada. I am told that, before this, there was one more book in the long past. Weekly magazines are used to print scene shots with text bubbles. But, for the first time, such a mature subject is being explored in the Kannada language. This genre deserves a definite push in the Kannada language.



Were there any linguistic hurdles while translating the work?

At times, I struggled with pronunciation. Kannada is a phonetic language but on the other hand, English has silent letters. This was a hurdle while translating names and places mentioned in the novel. I was confused about whether to use the Iranian, French, or English pronunciation. The letter 'zha' and 'kha' (long vowel of Urdu) do not exist in Kannada but it's possible in French and English. We had to find alternative sounds within Kannada. Another challenge was the different half letters and 'ottu' which forced us to explore a different font size than the English work.

Tell us about the research you did...

A lot of research went into translating the book. I needed to understand the dynamic shifts and political shifts in the book. I realised that most nations have gone through similar struggles. As a kid, I had heard of this war but did not understand anything beyond the monolith of war. We often do not see how war affects the different classes of people differently. It led me to see wars through a more emphatic lens. Also, during wars, women are not often seen as victims of war and their perspective is absent. In a way, I am glad that Persepolis was written and translated by women writers.

How were you able to capture the Iranian-ness of the work into Kannada?

The original work is written for a global audience. Certain words were already translated and the descriptions are not tough to translate. We have retained the Iranian-ness of the novel intact. Marjane's thought process and ideation have a novelty to them and hence we wanted to retain all its originality. Someone reading the Iranian novel in Thirthahalli should be exposed to the ethos, different feel, emotions, and language of the novel. Every reading should be able to give the reader a new world. While we retained most of the essence, certain adages had to be written differently to suit the contextual understanding of the Kannada reader.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

STANDING OUT

I saw this lonely pelican surrounded by cormorants during my first visit to Sarakki Lake recently.

The picture was clicked by reader **Aparna Sambasivan**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Repair work that just cannot be completed!

Pedestrians and commuters are peeved at the unfinished restoration work on Outer Ring Road near Agara Lake

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru, it is a pet peeve of many that repair work once started, never ends. It's a similar situation on Outer Ring Road near Agara Lake where residents and commuters say that the restoration work has remained incomplete for several months now. They also want the work to be done as soon as possible for ease of commuting.

People say that the road has not been asphalted, making the commute even more cumbersome.

Srikant Srivastav, a commuter, said, "The restoration work of the road has been stopped for so many months. They barely did half the work and left it like that for so many days. If the authorities have started something, then they should make sure that they are finishing the work and not stopping midway."

> **"The footpath is in terrible shape. It cannot even be called a footpath; it is a drain cover at the very best**
>
> – Naveen Prasad, a pedestrian

The commuters added that in the last few days, the situation was worsened because of the heavy rains that lashed the city. Ayush Chakravarty, another commuter, added that the road has become even more problematic. It is completely uneven and there are parts of the road which are broken due to potholes.

Because of the rains, the potholes are filled with water, and it is becoming very difficult to understand where the holes are to avoid them were while driving. Every day, people are facing a lot of problems, said Harsha S, another commuter.

Potholes and craters pose a threat to pedestrians and walkers near Agara Lake

Some of the commuters also said that the footpath also needed fixing. Naveen Prasad, a pedestrian using the road daily, said, "I have noticed several times that people are walking on the roads which are quite dangerous, but it is not their fault either because the footpath is in terrible shape. It cannot even be called a footpath; it is a drain cover at the very best."

Some also said the poor road condition also leads to a lot of traffic congestion. Himanshu Sahu, a commuter, said, "Because of the poor road, every one of us gets stuck in traffic. Unless the road work is completed soon, the condition will not change." A BBMP official said that they were planning on finishing the work as soon as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the popular jewellery houses in Bengaluru, C Krishniah Chetty & Sons, is a 152-year-old business. Started in 1869, the family-run business was started by Cotha Krishniah Chetty. The founder had created an establishment in British Cantonment and decided to start his small enterprise in Bengaluru. For him, it was more an occupation than just starting a business. They have served as jewellers to the royal family of Mysuru, the Nizam of Hyderabad, Maharaja of Gindal, Maharaja of Travancore, Maharaja of Sandur and Nawab of Savanur. The house is also known for competing and collaborating with the jewellers of London. They also became an Indian firm to import custom-made diamond-set gold watches with the dial imprinted with their name from The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company of London and Rolex of Switzerland. They have delivered important pieces of craft, custom-made jewellery. The business continues its work of making various kinds of jewellery till date.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

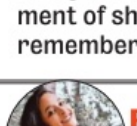
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which has been your favourite World Cup moment so far?

Sandhya Srinivasan, BM Reader
My most favourite moment this World Cup was the match between France and Morocco when, France won with two goals against Morocco. It was a moment of sheer happiness -- one that I shall remember forever.



Paavana P, BM Reader
My most memorable moment was the match between Croatia and Brazil, when Croatia got through to the semi-finals. It is a moment I shall cherish forever.

Harshita Singh, BM Reader
In the spectacular Argentina versus Croatia match when Argentina won with three goals against Croatia, it was my biggest highlight of the entire tournament so far.

Apoorva Sharma, BM Reader
For me it was Portugal versus Ghana, when Portugal won by three goals against Ghana which scored two goals. As a football fan, it was one of my most favourite moments.

Akhilesh Dhar, BM Reader
In Qatar versus Ecuador, when Qatar scored no goals and Ecuador scored two goals, it was the greatest moment for me.

SPEAK TO US

Which is your most favourite spot during winter evenings in Bengaluru and why?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

1 in 3 Bengalureans have passports

B'luru second only to Delhi, Mumbai in country on that list; but in South, Karnataka is third

According to the Centre's records, there has been an increase in number of passports obtained by fraudulent means

Sridhar.Vivan
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One in three Bengalureans have passports, according to the latest data (assuming Bengaluru's projected population to be around 1.31 crore). With this, the IT capital of India has the third highest number of passport holders.

As per the data presented during the Lok Sabha recently, Bengaluru has 34,63,405 passport holders, next only to Delhi 39,06,063 and Mumbai-35,56,067. Sources said that people get a passport for various reasons including flying abroad for a job, studies and travel. However, around 3,08,525 people who had earlier got passports didn't find any reason to renew it further.

In Karnataka, Bengaluru has a lion's share of passport holders in the State. While Bengaluru may be leading in South India, Karnataka is in third position. Karnataka has 66,35,435 passport holders. In the country, Kerala stands first with 1.13 crore passport holders, followed by Maharashtra 1.04 crore, Tamil Nadu 0.97 crore, Uttar Pradesh 0.88 crore, Punjab 0.77 crore, Gujarat 0.68 crore, Karnataka 0.66 crore, Telangana 0.5 crore, West Bengal 0.46 crore and Delhi 0.39 crore. Overall, there are 9,58,35,903 passport holders in the country.

In Karnataka, Mangaluru City has the second highest number of passport holders in the State with 3,38,468, followed by 2,12,965, Belagavi 1,68,290, Hubballi-Dharwad 1,56,144 and Kalaburagi 1,44,545.

> **Legal action has been taken by local police in the cases pertaining to fake addresses and cases against the touts/agents involved. Special Police drives are carried out against touts** –An official

Meanwhile, there has been an increase in passports being obtained via fake means. According to the Centre, a total of 323 passports have been impounded in the last three years due to wrong addresses. While there has not been a single case of wrong address in 2019, there were 111 passport applicants who had given a fake address in 2020, 1578 in 2021 and 54 this year (till July).

Reacting to this, an official from the Centre said, "Legal action has been taken by local police in the cases pertaining to fake addresses and cases against the touts/agents involved. Further, Special Police drives are carried out against the touts/agents. Public Notices are also issued on a regular basis and circulated on Social Media advising applicants to be careful against such touts / agents. Standees / display boards have also been kept in Passport Offices to spread information on such activities of agents/touts."

E-passport plan

There are plans to introduce e-passports in the country. During a Lok Sabha reply, Union Minister of state in External Affairs Ministry V Muraleedharan said, "The Government is planning to issue e-Passports to its citizens, with advanced security features. An e-Passport is the same as the current Machine Readable Passport (MRP), with the addition of an electronic chip, which contains the same information that is printed on the passport's data page including the holder's name, date of birth, photograph, etc."

'The personal particulars of the applicants would be digitally signed and stored in the chip.

"The data of the citizens for e-Passport would be used for the specific purpose only, i.e. issuance of the passport and related services. There is no secondary use of the data, thereby safeguarding the privacy concerns. Further transaction processes are authenticated by digital certificates and are cryptographically signed."

Dengue in December: Spike due to Mandous

Usually, dengue cases dip during winter as there is no rainfall. However, this year, dengue cases are on the rise even during December and doctors attribute it to the Mandous effect.

Due to the cyclone and a deep depression before it, the city has been receiving moderate rainfall. Now, post rainfall, there seems to be an increase in dengue cases. According to the latest statistics, around 432 dengue cases have been reported in the state in the last five days.

So far, 9,064 dengue cases have been reported this year in the State. This is the highest compared to previous years. This year, BBMP has reported 1,993 dengue cases. Besides dengue, there are other vector borne diseases that are on rise as well. As many as 2,115 people have been said to be infected with Chikungunya.

Citizenry too can contribute towards keeping areas mosquito-free

The most important and easy way of fighting this disease is control of mosquito breeding. BBMP officials said that they have been alerting people about this.

"Keep your surroundings clean and prevent water logging sounds simple, but these are hardly implemented by our people who only point to the civic authorities to implement it for them. The civic authorities as usual turn a blind eye towards prevention of water logging and the incessant heavy rains are not helping the cause. It is the responsibility of every individual to prevent mosquito breeding around their house, a responsibility at community level. One can also adopt measures at individual level to prevent mosquito bites like wearing full sleeved shirts and pants, applying mosquito repellent creams or using mosquito nets and not being outdoors after sunset or before sunrise," said a health expert.

Lot of PRASHAD in store for Chamundi Hills

The Chamundi Hills is set to get a facelift following the Centre's approval of the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme. Under this, development works will be taken up at temple premises, Mahishasura plaza, Devikere, Nandi statue, temple foothills and Devi Kere view point.

According to officials, Chamundi Hills have been receiving a lot of tourists but the basic amenities need to be upgraded. So, a big list has been drawn up.

There are plans to have police booths, clinic, drinking water facility, seating arrangement near Mahishasura statue, information centre, development of footpath, ticket counters, parking facilities, lighting and decoration along with development of entrance plaza will be taken up.

"The project was delayed for various reasons. Now, we have got a green signal and the project will start soon," said Mysuru MP Pratap Simha.

"We had to meet a number of parameters to bag the centre's project. Now, we are successful in bagging the project and the development works will start soon," said Anita Bhaskar, deputy secretary at the tourism department.

Environmentalists want state government to also see the hill top as an eco-sensitive area

According to sources, the centre will allocate a sum of Rs 48.3 crore for the redevelopment of Nandi hills. The district administration is likely to get a formal intimation from the centre in a fortnight's time. It will take another month for the release of funds and subsequently works will be taken up.

The implementation of the PRASHAD scheme has been waiting for the last seven years. "The ministry of tourism under its ongoing scheme of PRASHAD also sanctions projects in the country for development of tourism infrastructure with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations," said an official.

Meanwhile, green activists are urging the state government to take measures to curb the tourists visiting the hills. They argue that the Chamundi hills were not just a pilgrim spot but also rich in biodiversity and this is the reason why it needs to be protected. They have also been pointing to incidents like frequent landslides due to increase in traffic.

–Prakash VL

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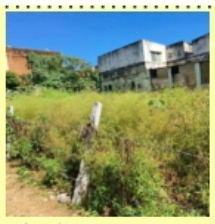

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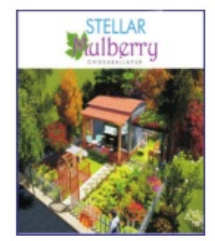

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lydia Regina Davey R/O #28 Wisama cottage, 2nd C main Road, Bhoopsandra, RMV Ext II Stage, B'lore-94, in some documents my name is wrongly mentioned as Leedial Regina but my correct and actual name is Lydia Regina Davey, D/O Late DoraiRaj @ Late Paul DoraiRaj, W/O Late Leon Davey @ Late Leon John Edwin Davey for all purposes.

I, Praveena Shedthy W/o. Ravindra Shetty Residing at No.13/A/10, Marappa Complex, MEC Road, Marappanapalya, Yeshwanthapura, Bangalore-560022 have changed my name to PRAVEENA RAVINDRA SHETTY vide affidavit dated 17.12.2022 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

I Byrahanume Gowda S/o Munibyregowda R/o #No 700 4th Main 50 Feet Road, Raghavendra Block, Bengaluru-560050 have changed my name to Byrahanume Gowda Shakaladevanapura Munibyregowda for all purposes.

I, Sabina Vijay Rajan D/o. Anthony Residing at No.17G, Teachers Colony, Varadarajaswamy Layout, Singapura Layout, Bangalore-560097 have changed my name to ANJULA SABINA vide affidavit dated 17.12.2022 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, Vikram A Talreja residing at Flat-301, Dasta North Avenue Aprt, 2nd Main, Lottegollahalli, RMV 2nd Stage, B'lore-560094 have changed my name to Vikram Talreja vide affidavit Dated 16.12.2022 sworn before Notary V Anjanappa Bangalore

I Rajkumar Rajendran, R/o G6, Ushoodaya Pride, Green glen layout, Bellandur, Bangalore - 560103 have changed my minor son's name from Sai Rishi to Sai Rishi Rajkumar

I Antony Mary J W/o Manjunath R R/o #4/1 Mariam Nilaya, Doddabanaswadi, B'luru-560043, Have changed my name to Antony Mary, vide Affidavit Dt: 15/12/2022, Before Notary R Vishwanath, B"luru.

I Sudha w/o Kempegowda, R/o No 28, 12th Main, 6th Cross, Shreyas Colony, JP Nagar 7th Phase B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Sudha K vide affidavit Dt: 15/12/2022 before notary R Vishwanath, B"luru

I Josephine Rajathi Savierdass w/o Prasad R R/o No 4/1 Mariam Nilaya, Doddabanas - wadi B'luru-560043 have chan - ged my name to Janani P, vide Affidavit Dt: 16/12/2022, Before Notary R Vishwanath, B'luru

I, LATEEFA BAGUM M/o 14859737K Hav Showket Ahmad R/o Pattan, Baramula (J&K) have changed my name to LATEEFA BEGUM vide affidavit dt 15 Dec 2022 before Notary KV Mani, Bengaluru.

I, Gh Mohd Bhat F/o 14859737k Hav Showket Ahmad R/o Pattan, Baramula (J&k) Have Changed My Name To Ghulam Mohammad Bhat Vide Affidavit Dt 15 Dec 2022 Before Notary

I Ramamurthy S/o Venkateshappa R/o #79/1, A K Colony, Near 43B Bus Stop, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Ramamurthy Venkateshappa for all purposes

I Kalavathi w/o Krishna D, R/o No 163 4th Main 7th Cross, MTB Area 5th Block Jayanagar B'luru-560041, Have changed my name to Kalavathi K vide Affidavit Dt: 15/12/2022, Before Notary R Vishwanath, B"luru.

I Krishna s/o Doddatamaya, R/o No 163 4th Main 7th Cross, MTB Area 5th Block Jayanagar B'luru-560041 have changed my name to Krishna D vide Affidavit Dt: 15/12/2022, before notary R Vishwanath, B"luru.

I Anitha w/o Krishnappa K R/o "Byraveshwara Nilaya" B-2 Block, Near Govt Primary School, Vemagal Kolar-563101 have changed my name to Anitha K vide Affidavit Dt: 16/12/2022, Before Notary R Vishwanath, B'luru

I Krishnappa S/o Korachappa R/o Byraveshwara Nilaya B-2 Block, Near Govt Primary School, Vemagal Kolar-563101, Have changed my name to Krishnappa K vide Affidavit Dt: 16/12/2022, Before Notary R Vishwanath, B"luru.

SC dismisses Bilkis Bano's plea seeking review

#NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea filed by Bilkis Bano, seeking a review of its order passed in May by which it had asked the Gujarat government to consider a petition for the remission of the sentences of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case.

Bano was gang-raped and seven members of her family were killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

According to procedures, review pleas against apex court judgments are decided in chambers by circulation by the judges who were part of the judgment under review.

Bano's review plea came up for in-chamber consideration on December 13 before a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath.

"I am directed to inform you that the review petition above mentioned filed in Supreme Court was dismissed by the court on December 13, 2022," read a communication sent to Bano's counsel Shobha Gupta by the apex court's assistant registrar.

The gang-rape survivor had sought a review of the top court's May 13 order on a plea moved by one of the convicts.

The apex court had asked the state government to consider the plea for a premature release of the convict in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992 about taking a decision on a remission petition within a period of two months.

Gang-rape survivor had sought a review of top court's order on remission of sentences of convicts

All the 11 convicts were granted remission by the Gujarat government and released on August 15.

Gupta told PTI that the order on the review petition is yet to be uploaded on the Supreme Court's website.

"The order has not been uploaded yet. After perusing the order, we will decide the future course of action," she said on being asked about whether Bano would file a curative petition.

Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed.

The review plea had said Bano was not made a party to the petition filed by the convict, who along with others was released under the state's remission policy, which is not in force.

"In view of the development that the policy dated July 9, 1992 stood cancelled vide circular dated May 8, 2003 of State of Gujarat, it was necessary to be examined whether still the policy dated July 9, 1992 would be the relevant policy for remission application of the convicts to be considered, if at all the State of Gujarat is the appropriate government under section 432, CrPC," the plea had said. -PTI

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GST Council largesse: Offences decriminalised

Doubles threshold for launching prosecution to Rs 2 cr; defines SUVs for 22% cess

#NEW DELHI

The GST Council on Saturday agreed to decriminalise certain offences and doubled the threshold for launching prosecution under the tax law to Rs 2 crore, but retained the limit at Rs 1 crore for fake invoicing.

The Council also clarified on the definition of SUVs (sports utility vehicles) for the levy of 22 per cent compensation cess over the 28 per cent GST and decided to come out with parameters to define MUVs (multi utility vehicles).

Briefing reporters after the 48th GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Council could decide on only eight out of the 15 agenda items due to paucity of time, but added that no new taxes have been brought in.

The agenda items which could not be considered included taxation for pan masala and gutkha firms and a report by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on setting up of appellate tribunals.

The report of another GoM, chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, on GST levy on online gaming, casinos and horse racing was also not part of the agenda for Saturday's meeting.

Sitharaman said in case of SUVs, the clarification that has been given is that the higher rate of compensation cess of 22 per cent is applicable to a motor vehicle fulfilling all four conditions -- it is popularly known as SUV; has engine capacity exceeding 1,500cc; length exceeding 4,000 mm; has ground clearance of 170 mm and above. "So this clarification is not new tax, it's more to say what defines that commodity which is under taxation as SUV," the minister said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses the media on the 48th GST Council meeting, in New Delhi, on Saturday

"There hasn't been any tax increase on any item. No new taxation has been brought in. Everything has been done to issue clarifications where ambiguity prevailed

–Nirmala Sitharaman

Sitharaman said the discussion on MUVs began when some states asked whether sedans should be included in the SUV category. The states also suggested bringing in a definition for MUVs.

The minister said the Council decided that if any other motor vehicle categories need to be added to the 22 per cent cess, the panel of central and state tax officers (or the Fitment Committee) will look into it.

The Centre and states would attempt to widen the GST base at every level to increase the tax mop-up which is averaging about Rs 1.4 lakh crore every month.

"So the focus will be on how much all of us are putting effort... to widen the tax base," she said.

Currently, 1.40 crore tax payers are registered under GST.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said the Council took a "path breaking decision" with regard to decriminalising three types of GST offences -- obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties; deliberate tampering of material evidence; and failure to supply information.

The minimum threshold of tax amount for launching prosecution under GST has been raised from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore, except for the offence of issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services or both. -PTI

India's stance on pesticide cut

A numerical global target for pesticide reduction in the agriculture sector is unnecessary and must be left for countries to decide, India has said at the UN biodiversity conference here in Canada. India also supported subsidies for the agriculture sector. Speaking during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that the agriculture sector in India, like other developing countries, is the source of "life, livelihoods, and culture for hundreds of millions". PTI

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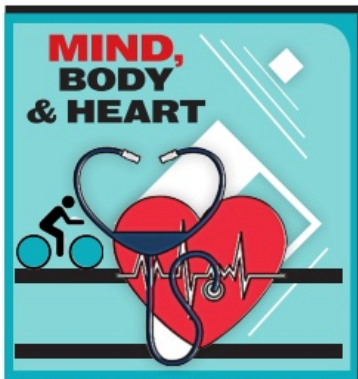

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My dilemma is, I'm desperate for us to get married, but he rolls his eyes every time I bring it up and says going through a divorce has put him off marriage for life. I don't need a huge, expensive wedding, but I want the romance and the commitment, and to provide a bit more stability for our kids, who've been through the (divorce) mill. I'd love your advice - am I too needy, desperate and sad or do I have a point??

COLEEN SAYS
You're in love, which is wonderful, and of course I understand you're looking for commitment from him. However, a marriage certificate won't guarantee a "happy ending". Yes, it's a different relationship, but both of you have to want marriage and you have to respect his experience and opinion. But not wanting to get married doesn't mean he doesn't love you or that he won't be as committed.
I don't think it's a good idea to force his hand (it will just make him feel he's lacking in some way). If and when you see him at the end of the aisle, you want him to be there because that's what he wants and not because he feels he has no choice. If your desperation to tie that knot has something to do with feeling insecure, then talk to him about how you feel, so he can reassure you and show his commitment in other ways. This is still a pretty new relationship so focus on enjoying it and seeing where it takes you.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

What a starter!

These paneer recipes are the perfect accompaniment to what promises to be a thriller of a World Cup final

PUNJABI PANEER BHURJI

Classic comfort food for all

INGREDIENTS
- Paneer: 250 gm
- Ginger-Garlic paste: 1 tsp
- green chilli: 1
- cumin seeds: ½ tsp
- turmeric powder: ¼ teaspoon
- red chilli powder: ½ teaspoon
- coriander powder: ½ teaspoon
- garam masala powder: ¼ teaspoon
- Onions: ½ cup
- Tomatoes: 1 cup
- Oil: 3 tbsp

METHOD
- Crumble 250 grams paneer and keep aside. Heat 3 tablespoons oil in a frying pan, add ½ teaspoon cumin seeds and let them crackle.
- Then add ½ cup finely chopped onions. Sauté the onions till they turn translucent, add 1 teaspoon ginger-garlic paste and chopped green chillies. Mix very well and sauté till the raw aroma of ginger-garlic goes away. Add 1 cup finely chopped tomatoes and begin to sauté them on a medium heat. Till they completely soften. Add all the ground spice powders Mix very well and sauté for 5 to 6 seconds on low to medium-low heat. Add the crumbled paneer and coat the masala over the paneer, cook for 5 min and add salt as per taste.

AMRITSARI PANEER TIKKA

Amritsar is the inspiration behind this rustic, tandoor-roasted paneer.

INGREDIENTS
- paneer, cut into 10 pieces: 300 gm
- green capsicum: 3 cubed pieces
- tomato: 3 cubed pieces

For the marination
- yoghurt: 1/4 cup
- ginger paste: 1 tsp
- garlic paste: 1 tsp
- red chilli paste: 1 tbsp
- coriander powder: 1 tsp
- cumin powder: 1 tsp
- garam masala powder: 1 tsp
- turmeric powder: 1/4 tsp
- red chilli powder: 2 tsp
- salt: 1/4 tsp
- fresh cream: 2 tbsp
- kasuri methi powder: 1/4 tsp
- dried mango powder (amchur): 1/4 tsp

METHOD
- Whisk together all the ingredients for the marinade and set aside. Gently add the paneer pieces to the marinade and keep the mixture aside for 1 hour. Preheat the oven at 250 degrees for 15 minutes. Skewer the paneer onto 2 skewers, alternating with the capsicum and tomato cubes. Grill the skewers for 20 minutes. Serve.

KADHAI PANEER

This dish gets its name from the heavy iron wok, in which it was traditionally cooked along with fresh herbs and a special spice mix.

INGREDIENTS
- paneer, cut into 1-inch cubes: 250 gms
- capsicum: 1/2 cup cube
- onions: 1/2 cup cube
- oil: 1/4 cup
- cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- finely chopped onions: 1 cup
- finely chopped tomatoes: 1 cup
- canned tomato puree: 1/3 cup
- garlic paste: 2 tsp
- ginger paste: 1 tsp
- turmeric powder: 1/2 tsp
- cumin powder: 1 tsp
- coriander powder: 1 1/2 tsp
- Kashmiri red chilli powder: 1 tsp
- garam masala powder: 1 tsp
- kadhai spice mix: 2 tsp
- Kashmiri red chilli paste: 1 tbsp
- water: 1/4 cup
- yoghurt: 2 tbsp
- cashewnut paste: 2 tsp
- Salt: to taste

Kadhai Spice Mix
- coriander seeds: 4 tbsp
- cumin seeds: 1 tbsp
- black peppercorns: 1 tsp
- Kashmiri chillies: 3-4 whole (dry roast, grind and use)

METHOD
- Heat a pan, add 2 tbsp of oil and sauté the onions and capsicum for 2 minutes. Remove and set aside. In the same pan, gently fry the paneer cubes till slightly golden, remove. Heat frying pan, add 1/4 cup of oil. Add the cumin seeds and chopped onions. Fry the onions till pink. Add garlic and ginger paste, fry till golden brown. Add chopped tomatoes, salt, turmeric, cumin, coriander, red chilli and garam masala powder. Mix well and add in the tomato puree and the red chilli paste, along with 1 tsp of the kadhai spice mix. Add yoghurt and 1/4 cup water. Cover the pan and cook for 5 minutes, add the cashew paste and mix well. Now add the paneer and capsicum, onions and toss well. Cook for 3-4 minutes. Serve.

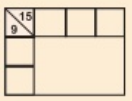
Recipes by Shikha Nath, Culinary director, Copper Chimney

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

How many times will the 29th February come in 400 years?

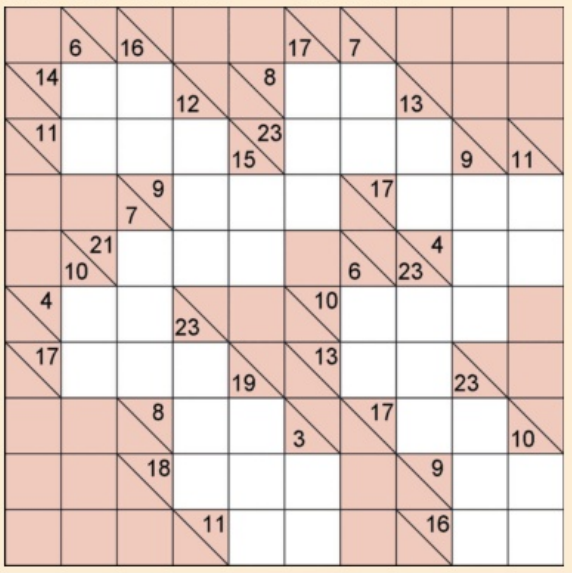
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

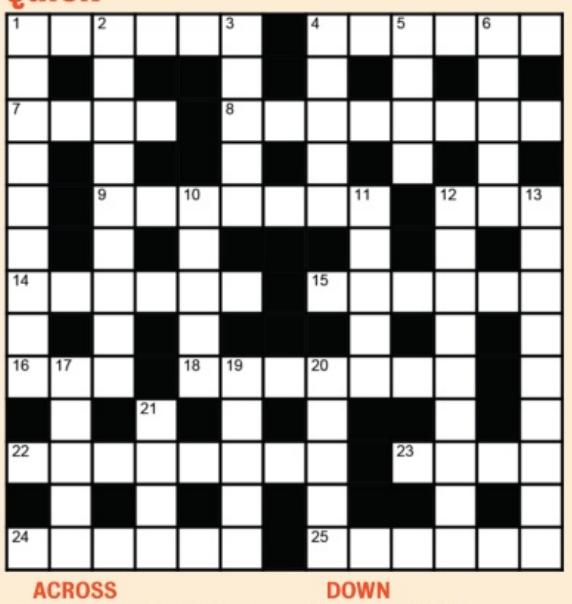


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Not private or secret? (6)
4 Make a summoning sign (6)
7 Music symbol (4)
8 Exhibited, demonstrated or presented (8)
9 Aroused, incited or electrified (7)
12 Settle an account (3)
14 ____ Lake: Picnic spot north east of the city. (6)
15 An unpaid and overdue debt (6)
16 Psychic power (3)
18 Summer-type shoes (7)
22 Plucking implement (8)
23 Tributary of Ganges (4)
24 Wickedly, awfully; in a contemptible manner (6)
25 Adorn, decorate (6)

DOWN

1 Top floor flat (9)
2 Attempts to curry favour (7,2)
3 Sensory appendages of insects? (5)
4 Spree, drinking bout (5)
5 Kitchen boss (4)
6 Musical drama (5)
10 Cuts with an axe (5)
11 Hindu goddess of war (5)
12 ___ ___ the advantage : take full advantage of a favorable situation, in a way? (5,4)
13 Standard for comparison (9)
17 Figure out (5)
19 Lay out (5)
20 Retire from military service (5)
21 Revered figure (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS H

CVCDMA RK BV CXCDVBP QCPRMSX, BVQ SC OSL QCKRDCK, TGX BWXK VLX, TDCCQK HCKXRPCVWC.

Linemaro

I don't know whis is prettier today, the water, the sky or your eyes

Mindchow

Be yourself, everyone else is taken

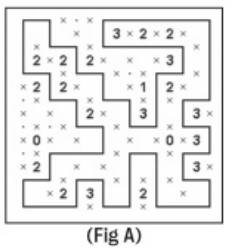
Joke of the day

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician

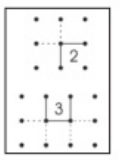
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

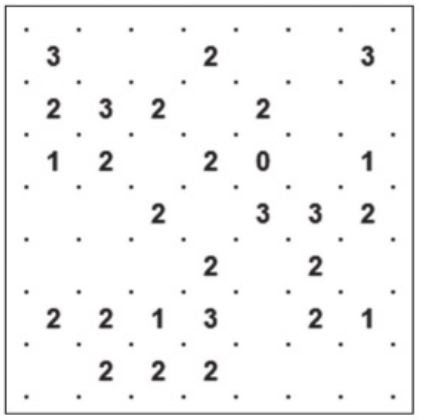


(Fig B) Not Allowed

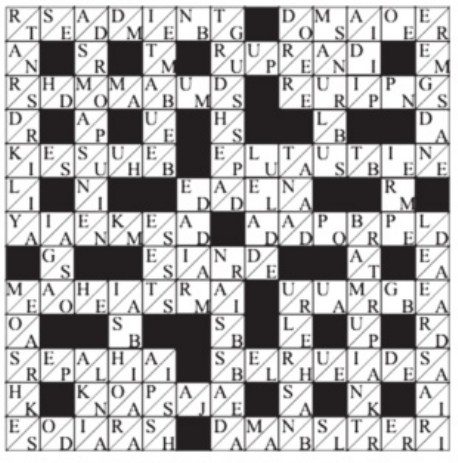
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



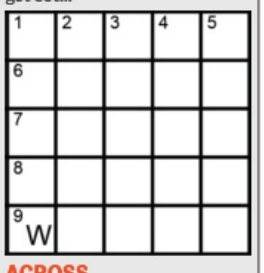
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

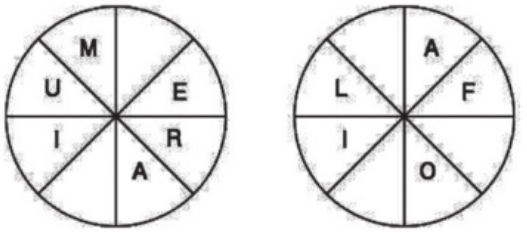
1 Sh Plu; 6 Ah pal; 7 Apter; 8 Alien; 9 Flows

DOWN

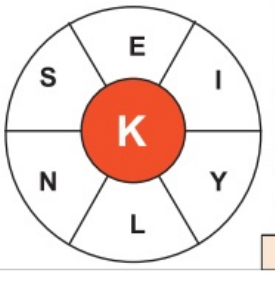
1 Aw pap; 2 No all; 3 Lit up; 4 Flesh; 5 Hears

Mensapuzzle

Find the starting point and work clockwise round each circle to find two types of flower, each eight letters long. You have to provide the missing letters.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2	7			4	8		
	5			7	3		9	
9								7
			8			4		9
		8				3		
5		3			6			
6								4
	1		2	4			3	
		2	7			5	1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13
7 7 8 9

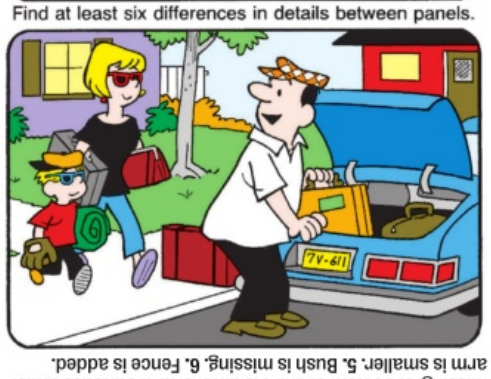
Medium = 29
4 6 8 9

Hard = 13
2 4 6 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



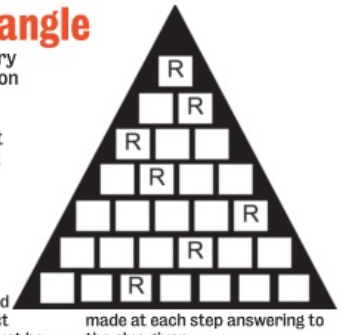
Differences: 1. Trunk hinge is moved. 2. Suitcase handle is missing. 3. Bottom of shirt is different. 4. Suitcase under arm is smaller. 5. Bush is missing. 6. Fence is added.

Riddler

Which is the odd one out: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens?

Alpha triangle

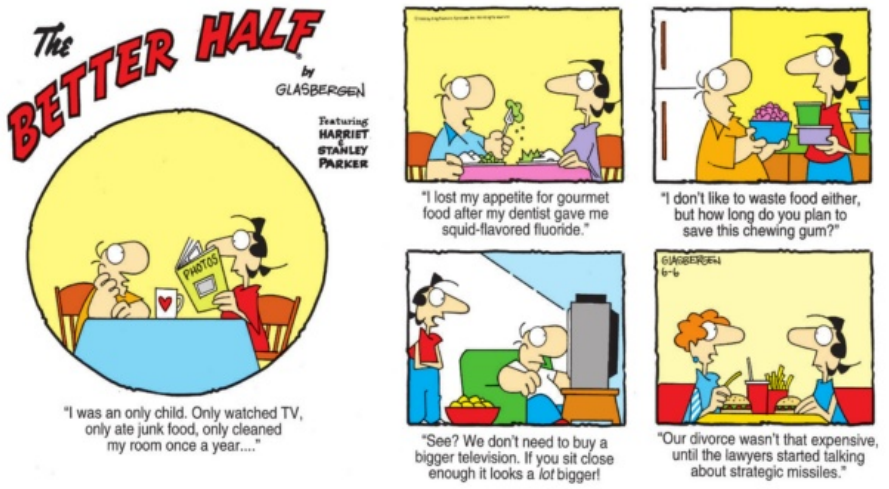
1 Radius in geometry
2 Sound of hesitation
3 Female ruff
4 Irish Gaelic
5 Display contempt
6 Categories of art
7 Infuriates



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
PHOTOS
"I was an only child. Only watched TV, only ate junk food, only cleaned my room once a year...."
"I lost my appetite for gourmet food after my dentist gave me squid-flavored fluoride."
"I don't like to waste food either, but how long do you plan to save this chewing gum?"
"See? We don't need to buy a bigger television. If you sit close enough it looks a lot bigger!
"Our divorce wasn't that expensive, until the lawyers started talking about strategic missiles."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
WREN, THERE'S SOMETHING CRAWLING ON YOUR ARM.
LICK!
GAAAAH!
MOM! CALL 9-1-1!! WREN JUST ATE A BUG!
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY NOT A BIG DEAL.
HAMMIE USED TO EAT BUGS ALL THE TIME.
AND LOOK HOW HE TURNED OUT!
HOW WHO TURNED OUT!
WE CAN'T PIN THAT ON THE BUGS.

AN ACCIDENTAL BITE BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER HAS GIVEN TEENAGER PETER PARKER SUPER POWERS, AND TRANSFORMED HIM INTO--
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
A MURDEROUS MASKED MENACE OR A MODERN-DAY CRUSADER?
GET BACK, YOU MISBEGOTTEN MONSTROSITY!
STAN LEE! 7-31 SWITZER/SINNOTT
SCALY MAN CAN'T STOP HULK WITH BIG WORDS!
DON'T KILL HIM, HULK!
I WON'T LET YOU KILL HIM!
IF YOU STAND IN HULK'S WAY, PUNY SPIDER-
-HULK WILL CRUSH YOU BOTH!
IT'S THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY-RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EVERGLADES-
-AND NO WORTHLESS PETER PARKER TO SNAP A PICTURE OF IT!
THREE WAY BATTLE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be busy at work. Your focus towards your goal is now clear, which may help you complete your tasks before deadlines and with perfection. You may also enjoy happy moments with your family. Singles are likely to find your soulmate. You may plan to renovate your house or office, which may enhance your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Self respect may help you from negative people around you. You are likely to be more emotional in family-related issues. You may perform well at work. You are likely to complete your tasks on time, which may boost your confidence. Your inner self may help you to take difficult decisions in terms of business growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are under the influence of the negative moon. You may feel negativity around you. Due to dull feelings, you may be arrogant. It is advised to control your way of speaking. Harsh speaking may create problems around you. Investments related to fixed assets are advised to postpone.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today the positive moon may spread blessings. You may be confident. You may enjoy your work, which will speed up your current projects. You may feel healthy. Your desires may come true. People around you will take help from you to solve their problems, which may increase your prestige in society.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your moon is negative. You may feel dull and may face some health issues, which may affect your daily routine. Some of your known people may betray you, so you are advised to keep your eyes open. You may be confused in terms of taking the right decision. It is advised to not take any financial decision related to your business. Keep patience and avoid hurrying.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the positive moon, which may help you to take the right decision in making investments. Your past investments may give you profits. You are likely to start working on a new project which will give you benefits in the long run. You may increase your network to improve your social status.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may have dull feelings. Some sort of negativity may be noticed around you. It is advised to control your way of speaking. Harsh tones can create problems around you. You are likely to deny any suggestions given by your well wisher. Somehow, by late evening, things may be under control.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things. You are likely to meet some adviser or get some direction, which may help you invest your savings into better options. You may find yourself being more polite with others, which may increase your respect.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is good for your work. You may perform well in the office. Your seniors may give you some responsibility in terms of promotions. You may be in a winning position in some litigation. Your kids' health may be better now. You are likely to meet with investment consultants for their future. You may have control over your hidden enemies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. With the help of elders, you may come out of last week's messy situation. With the help of destiny, you may observe some progress in life. Your spiritual powers may help you take right decisions. Your financial condition may be improved.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Impatient nature and arrogance will push you back from taking difficult decisions. You will be in need of blessing from your elders, which will help you to grow into your work front. Avoid investments in dead assets. Lovebirds should avoid discussions regarding bad moments.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You are blessed by the moon today. You may expect to hear some good news in terms of your profession. Your domestic life may be in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics in the family. You can take important decisions in terms of investments. Students may be focused on their studies.

KIDZONE

Noore Sheriff, 13 Years, Tunbridge High School

Akanksha P Chowdry, 13 Years, Sri Vani Education Centre

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
29th day of February comes after 4 years. So 100 years =24 leap years ,200 years =(24×2)48 leap years,300 years =(24×3)72 leap years & 400 years =(24×4) =96 leap years + 1 leap year = 97 leap years.

BULL'S EYE
inky, kiln, like, liken, link, silk, siken, silky, sink, skein, skin, SKYLINE, slink, slinky

FAST FIVE

P	L	U	S	H
A	L	P	H	A
P	A	T	E	R
A	N	I	L	E
W	O	L	F	S

STRIKE OUT

S	O	A	R	S		D	A	B	S	T	E	R		
K		K	O	P	J	E		A		N		I		
A			B			B	E	H	E	A	D	S		
S	P	A	H	I		B	E	H	E	A	D	S		
A			B			E		P				R		
M	A	H	A	T	M	A		R	U	M	B	A		
	G			S	A	N	D		A			E		
Y	A	N	K	E	D		A	D	O	R	E	D		
L		I		E	D	E	N			R				
I	S	S	U	E		E	L	A	S	T	I	N		
D		P	U		H		B					A		
R	H	O	M	B	U	S		R	U	I	N	G		
T	E	D	D	I	N	G		O	S	I	E	R		
A		R		M		U	P	E	N	D		E		

QUICK

M	E	A	N	L	Y		B	E	D	E	C	K		
	V		O		A		O		M		C			
P	L	E	C	T	R	U	M		K	O	S	I		
	O		I		R		E		H		T			
E	S	P		S	A	N	D	A	L	S		S		
	U		P			G			S		D			
U	L	S	O	O	R		A	R	R	E	A	R		
O		R		H		U		R				A		
H		E	X	C	I	T	E	D		P	A	Y		
T		T		C		G		F		R				
N	O	T	E		R	E	N	D	E	R	E	D		
	E		U		E		I		H		P			
B	E	C	K	O	N									

MENSA PUZZLE
GERANIUM, DAFFODIL

RIDDLER
The Bronx the only borough of New York city which is part of the US mainland.

QUOTE UNCODE
Energy is an eternal delight, and he who desires, but acts not, breeds pestilence.

SUDOKU

1	2	7	6	9	4	8	5	3
8	5	4	1	7	3	6	9	2
9	3	6	5	8	2	1	4	7
2	7	1	8	3	5	4	6	9
4	6	8	9	1	7	3	2	5
5	9	3	4	2	6	7	8	1
6	8	9	3	5	1	2	7	4
7	1	5	2	4	8	9	3	6
3	4	2	7	6	9	5	1	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Er, Ree, Erse, Sneer, Genres, Enrages.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 7 + 7 – 9 = 13
Medium
8 x 4 – 9 + 6 = 29
Hard
2 x 6 + 4 – 3 = 13

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Donald Glover, y'all
Donald Glover is set to join Sony Pictures' universe of Marvel characters, as the star and producer of a movie based on the Spider-Man villain the Hypno-Hustler

BangaloreMirror | 16
Sunday, December 18, 2022
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Space jam

Taapsee Pannu speaks about invasion of privacy

Only a few weeks ago a video of Taapsee Pannu went viral in which the actor was seen getting annoyed by the paparazzi. Now, during a recent interview she spoke on the invasion of her privacy and insisted that people may call her arrogant but she won't tolerate when someone steps into her 'breathing space'. Incidentally, Taapsee has time and again been seen asking paparazzi to give her the needed space. In fact, the actor has always urged the media to respect her boundaries and privacy.

While sharing her views on the privacy issue during the interview, Taapsee Pannu admitted that it does bother her because she understands the photographers are doing it despite knowing that it will irk the celeb. The actor asks why someone had to hold her car's door when she has gotten in. This is intruding her private space. Taapsee further asks would anyone, regardless of being a girl or boy, like it if a photographer shoves the camera in one's face, will you like it.

> Just because I am a celebrity, no one has the liberty to shove their cameras and mike into me physically and not give me breathing space

The actor then said that just because she's a celeb and walks without bodyguards no one has the liberty to shove their cameras and mike into her, physically, and not give her a regular human being's breathing space. "It gives you the liberty to violate my personal space." She also adds that the situation gets worse when the media make headlines calling her arrogant.

To this, Taapsee has just one thing to say. If she is arrogant to ask for basic human respect for space, then she's arrogant, but she won't just try to sugar-coat and be this good girl while facing this camera.

For the unversed, in the viral video, Taapsee was seen getting inside her car, while the paparazzi held the car's door. She was visibly irked and told the photographers not to do such things. **—ETimes**

Nasty cut in The Flash

Actors Henry Cavill and Gal Gadot have been unceremoniously axed from upcoming film 'The Flash'.

The two stars had been tipped to appear in next years' controversial movie - but have now reportedly been left on the cutting room floor, reports mirror.co.uk.

British star Henry, 39, was expected to reprise his role as Superman, aka Clark Kent, in the upcoming superhero movie with the cameo due to be his final appearance in the role having first donned his cape back in 2013.

While Israeli actress Gal, 37, was expected to appear in the film in her role as Diana Prince, aka Wonder Woman - a role she has held since 2016.

But The Hollywood Reporter claims that both cameos have been cut from The Flash movie - which is expected to hit cinemas in June next year.

Fans of the DC universe have reacted with fury over this. **— IANS**

Chitrangda in Indo-Italian film

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who is known for films like 'Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi', 'Yeh Saali Zindagi', 'Baazaar' and 'Modern Love Mumbai', is playing the lead role in Goutam Ghose's next Indo-Italian yet-to-be-titled film, which also stars Italian actor Marco Leonardi, known for his work in the acclaimed movie 'Cinema Paradiso'.

The film is being made in English, Hindi, and partly in Italian with its story revolving around issues of human displacement, through the story of a couple and their child. The first look of the film has been released and it shows the actress in a de-glam look. Donning a plain orange saree and minimalist make-up, Chitra looks sharp and beautiful.

The official statement from the production house reportedly stated, "Chitrangda is that rare combination of beauty with talent. We are thrilled to work with her. The role is quite challenging but we are confident that Chitrangda will bring a unique singularity to the role." The film's shooting had started back in 2019 but had a setback due to the pandemic. The team has resumed work now and a big part of the shoot is scheduled for Mumbai and Jabalpur. The film's script has been written by Goutam Ghose and Jagannath Guha, along with two Italian scriptwriters Amedeo Paganini and Sergio Scapagnini. **— IANS**

Of love & sacrifice

MODALA MIDITHA
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Hari Chethu
- **ACTORS** Nimish Sagar, Rashmitha Roja, T S Nagabharana, Sangeetha, Ramakrishna, Tabala Nani.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **DURATION** 154 minutes

There is no dearth of Kannada movies based on the themes of love and sacrifice but Modala Miditha is different.

The movie begins with the classmates of Rahul (Nimish Sagar) goading him to tell them what is making him ecstatic. Cut to a flashback: A scene where a beautiful girl rescues him from getting drenched in rain. Then we see the classmates telling Rahul that they would help him meet her.

Then Priya (Rashmitha Roja) also helps Rahul out when he is injured by getting him first aid and enabling him to go to his college on time to take part in a cultural programme. They fall in love. Rahul's patents Prashant Raj (Ramakrishna) and Sharada (Sangeetha) volunteer to meet Priya's father Bhadre Gowda (TS Nagabharana) at the latter's hometown. But, Bhadre Gowda refuses the proposal by Rahul's parents. Then Rahul decides to go to convince her father. He pretends to be the nephew of Venkatesh (Ganesh), a drunkard in the village, and works as a driver for Bhadre Gowda. Will he be able to convince the father of his love? That is the story.

Nimish has given a good shot at establishing himself as an actor in Sandalwood. He is very good in action scenes but has to go a long way to prove his mettle in emotional and romantic scenes. Rashmita, as a lover and an affectionate daughter, has acted well. And she looks pretty too.

Veteran Nagabharana is convincing as a village chief. His dialogue delivery and body language are very good. Tabala Nani tries his best to tickle funny bones of the audiences but fails miserably. In a few scenes, he seems to be overacting and treating his role in a frivolous manner. Venkatesh also known as Killer Venkatesh is convincing as an incorrigible drunkard.

Action scenes by Different Danny are -- well -- different. Director Hari Chethu deserves praise for juggling well with his many tasks – writing story, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, and music. Two among the four songs – Mungaru Mandalli and Edeya Balli – are good.

It is worth a watch for those who love romantic movies and like a twist in the plot. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**